ABORIGINAL FISHERMEN:

Some few weeks ago, a memorial to the Colonial Secretary was kindly prepared by a considerate gentleman in town, praying the Government to grant a suitable boat for the use of the aborigines in this end of the district, in the way of fishing and such purposes. The memorial having been prepared, Saddler and Timbery (two of the most intelligent representatives of the ancient inhabitants of the district) went about with the document, and obtained the signatures of several Magistrates and other gentlemen thereto. That being done, the same two aboriginals proceeded to Sydney and presented the memorial to the Colonial Secretary, who very properly granted the request of the dusky deputation, as will be perceived by the following official communication since received by the memorialists:

"Colonial Secretary's Office,
"Sydney, 20th June, 1876.

"Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Secretary approves of the providing George Timbery and William Saddler, aboriginals of the Illawarra tribe, with a boat and gear, to enable them to gain a livelihood by fishing, and that Captain Hixson, President of the Marine Board, has been instructed to prepare a suitable boat and gear, and send it at the public expense to Wollongong for their use. The local police will also be instructed to see that proper care be taken of the boat, &c.

"HENRY HALLORAN."

—Illawarra Mercury, 23 June 1876.

THE BEEHIVE COKE OVENS AT WOLLONGONG HARBOUR:

In a letter to the Secretary, Mr. C. W. Gardiner-Garden (Hon. Life Member) mentions that about 1945, when researching for the paper which developed into “The Port of Wollongong” he located the site of the Beehive coke oven referred to in his book (page 39, 2nd edition). He recovered several substantial samples of coke made on the site, and presented them to the Mining and Geological Museum, Sydney. (No one could then have foreseen that we would have a museum of our own, or a mining exhibit). The site of the ovens was at the eastern end of the Sea Scouts’ Hall near Belmore Basin.

"THE ARMS OF AUSTRALIA":

If you were on our excursion to the Nepean district in May 1972, you will be interested to hear that the Nepean District Historical Society has carried out its project, which we saw in its early stages, of restoring the Arms of Australia Inn (1840) at Emu Plains. The inn was officially opened on 27th March. It will be open to the public every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Admission: adults 50c, children and pensioners 20c, family [any size] $1.00). Drinks, tea and biscuits are on sale.

Congratulations to the Nepean Society on the success of what appeared to be—and no doubt was—a formidable undertaking.

One question—what were the arms of Australia in 1840? It would be interesting to know what was on the original inn sign.